

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed contemporaneously with Applicants' Request for Continued Examination (RCE), which is further to the Notice of Appeal dated January 4, 2007.

Enclosed herewith is a Petition requesting a five-month extension of time for resetting to deadline for filing an Appeal Brief from March 4, 2007, to and including August 4, 2007.

In the present Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1-13 and added new claims 14-40. The introduction of new claims 14-40 is fully supported by the originally filed specification and adds no new matter.

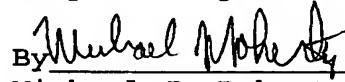
In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment now be entered, and that prosecution on the merits of this application now be initiated.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe such action can be taken, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any objections which he may have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Preliminary Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: July 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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